OPINION 1053

FORMICA MAXIMA MOORE, 1842 (INSECTA: HYMENOPTERA): SUPPRESSED UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS

RULING.—(1) The specific name *maxima* Moore, 1842, as published in the binomen *Formica maxima*, is hereby suppressed under the plenary powers for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy.

(2) The specific name *maxima* Moore, 1842, as published in the binomen *Formica maxima*, and as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Number 1007.

HISTORY OF THE CASE (Z.N.(S.) 2023)

An application by Dr. Ride (then of *Western Australian Museum, Perth, Western Australia*) and Dr. R. W. Taylor (*CSIRO, Canberra, Australia*) for the suppression of *Formica maxima* Moore, 1842, was received on 1 November 1972 and sent to the printer on 29 January 1973. It was published on 6 July 1973 in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **30** : 58–60. Public Notice of the possible use of the plenary powers in the present case was given in the same part of the *Bulletin* as well as to the other prescribed serial publications (Constitution Art. 12b; *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **31** : 97) and to nine entomological serials. No comments were received.

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 8 November 1974 the members of the Commission were asked to vote for or against Dr. Ride's and Dr. Taylor's proposals as set out in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **30** : 58. At the close of the Voting Period on 8 February 1975, the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative votes—twenty-one (21), received in the following order: Melville, Vokes, Holthuis, Lemche, Simpson, Alvarado, Willink, Eisenmann, Rohdendorf, Mayr, Sabrosky, Tortonese, Starobogatov, Binder, Corliss, Bayer, Nye, Heppell, Ride, Bernardi, Habe

Negative vote—one (1): Dupuis

Late Affirmative vote—one (1): Erben

Leave of Absence—one (1): Brinck

Voting Papers not returned—two (2): Kraus, Munroe.

The following comments were sent in by members of the Commission with their Voting Papers:

M. Dupuis: Au témoignage même des auteurs, la taxinomie des espèces en cause "is not fully understood". A mon sens il est inutile, voire dangereux de prendre une décision en ces conditions.

Dr. Nye: Although I am strongly opposed to placing senior subjective synonyms on an Official Index of Rejected Names, the present application is

clearly a case of a nomen dubium which cannot be fixed without upsetting a name which has been in current use for over 50 years.

Dr. Heppell: I vote for the proposal with some misgivings as this seems a clear case of a nomen dubium which, because of the uncertainty of its applicability, is no threat to any later name. As a number of entomologists are known to dislike unattached older names, however, preferring to erect neotypes rather than to let sleeping dogs lie, I acquiesce reluctantly in the proposal lest such a threat, undisclosed by the applicants, may exist in the present case.

M. Bernardi: Je suis d'accord pour la suppression de *Formica maxima* puisqu'il s'agit d'un nomen dubium dépourvu de syntypes.

ORIGINAL REFERENCE

The following is the original reference for the name placed on an Official Index by the Ruling given in the present Opinion:

maxima, Formica, Moore, G. F., 1842, *A descriptive vocabulary of the language in common use among the aborigines of Western Australia with copious meanings embodying much interesting information regarding the habits, manners and customs of the Natives, and the natural history of the country.* William S. Orr, London, p. 54

CERTIFICATE

I certify that the votes cast on Voting Paper (74)24 were cast as set out above, that the proposal set out in that Voting Paper has been duly adopted under the plenary powers, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 1053.

R. V. MELVILLE
Secretary
International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature
London
23 *September* 1975